

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is the closing date so early that it excludes meets being held over the Easter weekend?**

The closing date is not any earlier relative to the start of the competition than in previous years, but Easter is early this year. With a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> of April, we have allowed 13 working days before the first day of competition. To include meets held over Easter, the closing date would have to be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April (to allow for times to be loaded onto rankings). That would leave just 7 working days to process entries. Sometimes, as we saw for last year's Short Course Championships, problems are encountered when processing entries. The Region Swimming Group feels that there is an unacceptable level of risk associated with just 7 days to process entries.

Why working days? We use third party services to provide our entry portal. Neither that service, nor the Swim England Rankings staff, are available over weekend.

### **Why are we accepting fewer Boys/Men than Girls this year?**

We are planning on accepting slightly **more** male than female swimmers. This competition has 6 age group categories: 11/12 years, 13 years, 14 years, 15 years, 16 years, 17 and over. For the first time, we can have the same number of entries in every age group.

For females, we have 3 age groups in the Age Group competition and 3 in the Youth. For males we have 4 age groups in the Age Group competition and 2 in the Youth. That means we will have more males than females in the Age Group competition and more females than males in the Youth.

We have done this to allow us to take more older swimmers and reduce the number of occasions when a swimmer, who would qualify for a national summer competition, cannot get accepted for the region championships.

### **Why are there fewer entries being accepted for male 16, 17 and 18/over?**

There are only 2 male age groups in the Youth Championships. Male swimmers develop later than females. If we have the same quota of swims for 16 and 17/over swims, we end up with very few 17 year old swimmers because the fastest swimmers in the 17/over age group are typically 18 and over.

Take 50m swims as an example: The quota for 2 age groups would be  $2 \times 34 = 68$  swims. The Region Coaches' Forum has recommended that we allocate that quota equally over 16, 17, 18/over swimmers. We are actually offering  $3 \times 24 = 72$  swims. We took the same approach in 2022. The quota of swims in 2023 is equal to, or higher than, the equivalent numbers in 2022.

### **Why is there no competition at K2?**

At K2, there is no convenient area for swimmers between events other than the pool deck. The number of swims we can accept is limited by the capacity of the pool deck.

At both Wycombe and Winchester, we can hire a large sports hall with direct access to the pool. That means that the number of swims we can accept is limited only by the time available.

We hope that this information answers most of your questions. Please ask your coach in the first instance if you want more information.

28 January 2023

